

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 068192
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 VO-05 SIG-03 /035 R

DRAFTED BY ARAZCCA:DEHENDERSON:YT
APPROVED BY ARA/CCA:WSSMITH
ARA/CAR-RRUBER (SUBSTANCE)
ARA/MEX-EMCKUNE (SUBSTANCE)
EUR/WE-JCUMNINGHAM (SUBSTANCE)
ARA/PAN-DWAGNER
CA/VO-DLAUTZ (PHONE)
-----019966 170551Z /13

P R 162258Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
INFO USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREM, CU, US, PN

SUBJECT:EXIT ROUTES OF CUBAN REFUGEES

REF: A) STATE 047802 (NOTAL), B) PANAMA 1468 (NOTAL)

1. FYI PANAMA. (REF A) RELAYED INFO DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED THAT RECIPIENTS OF IMMIGRANT VISAS, NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS, AND AMERICAN CITIZENS DEPARTING CUBA FOR THE U.S. ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ROUTES THEY DESIRE. END FYI. PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT AS TO CIRCUMSTANCES OF TRAVEL THROUGH PANAMA OF DR. MANUEL LOPEZ DE MENDOZA Y ESPERON (REF B). RELATIVES INFORM US THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT
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HE COULD OBTAIN VISA-IN HAVANA AND WENT TO PANAMA AS IT IS EASIEST PLACE TO OBTAIN TRANSIT VISA TO US, IF ONE IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF US VISA.

2. FOR HAVANA. BOTH MENDOZA'S RELATIVES AND CONGRESSMAN LEHMAN'S MIAMI OFFICE HAVE COMPLAINED THAT MENDOZA HAD BEEN IN PANAMA SINCE MARCH 3 AT A COST OF NEARLY ONE

HUNDRED DOLLARS A DAY, PLUS THE HIGHER AIR COST OF TRANSIT-
ING PANAMA AS OPPOSED TO MEXICO. PLEASE MAKE LOW KEY
PRESENTATION TO APPROPRIATE CUBAN OFFICIALS TO EFFECT
THAT BOTH NONIMMIGRANT AND IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS CAN

RECEIVE THEIR VISAS IN HAVANA AND THAT THE US GOVERNMENT
PREFERS THAT THEY MAKE THEIR APPLICATIONS THERE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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